

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A lot of good things have happened to the Association this year. 1) We awarded our first scholarships. 2) Our computer is being utilized more fully allowing the compiling of information and data that benefits the membership in many ways, they being: 3) A second issue of the Torretta Flyer in one year that represents a milestone for the Association as our previous numbers have been issued once a year. 4) The printing of open letters to individual crew members. 5) The creation of a membership data base* You will notice that recent address stickers carry more information, such as a number in parenthesis following the squadron number. This number represents the last year that dues were received. Incidentally the question mark preceding the squadron number is used only to facilitate a sort command of the membership data base *. The question mark will be changed to another symbol on label stickers used next year. A new membership roster will be compiled and mailed to members of record after the first of the year.

*Data base is a term used to describe a method of filing information on memory devices used with computers. This information can be sorted and rearranged many different ways depending on what you are looking for.

6) The Association is now mailing out receipts for reunion events' fees as they are received from members. 7) Torretta Flyer No #12 was composed on our Macintosh Computer and printed on an Apple Laserwriter printer. Your editor Bud Markel, assisted by spouse Beatrice Markel, (proof reading), composed and laid out the pages, This is called desk top publishing.

Open Letters One of the stated purposes of the Association was to bring war time buddies together. Flight and ground crews who worked or flew as a team developed friendships that were suddenly broken by the end of the war in Europe. The work of Charles McKew of the 824 Squadron has been instrumental in the creation of an Open Letter Program. By combining his research on updating addresses with information taken from the new member forms, travel orders, and the computer data base the Association has been issuing an open letter to individuals assigned to specific crews. The computer comes into play by providing the means by which all of the information sources can be joined together in one form. This program has resulted in many new members joining the Association. The numbers seem to be about even for both Bomb Groups.

The program would be even more successful if more of our members would fill in and return their Membership Information Forms. A copy is enclosed with this issue. See Page 18.

RESEARCH PROGRAM One of the projects that has yet to be started and probably the one that will be most beneficial will be to start historical research on the activities and accomplishments of the 461st and 484th Bomb Groups.

This would form the foundation on which each group's history can be written. Up to now we use what our members have given to the Association. This has proven a treasure trove of great value, but there are large gaps in the information required. For example we need documents that will help us put ground crews together to use in making up open letters to them such as the ones now going to flight crews. Most of the material is stored at the Albert F Simpson Historical Research Center at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. If there are any members who would like to contribute to the first step in this effort they can contact me at the Association office. The work would consist of assembling a research guideline based upon the method of cataloging used at Maxwell.

PLANNING AHEAD Ben Franklin, Administrator of the 15th Air Force Association has invited us to join them in Colorado Springs at their next reunion in October of 1987. We have accepted his invitation and hope you all will join us there next year for the sixth Reunion and annual Membership Meeting of the Association. Mark these dates on your calendar: **October 14 to 18, 1987**. We think it is a good idea as it affords our members the opportunity to participate in new activities that only a larger scale convention can organize efficiently such as attending an Air Force Academy football game. We have already blocked hotel space in Colorado Springs at one of the leading hotels.

For 1988 we are looking at Las Vegas with their very attractive room rates and non stop air transportation from just about everywhere in the USA. In 1989 The gathering of the Liberator groups to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first flight of the B-24 has been scheduled for May 19-21, 1989 in Fort Worth, Texas. This event is being sponsored by General Dynamic, Ft Worth (Formerly Consolidated Aircraft) and the International B-24 Liberator Club. This gives us all something good to look forward too.

CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

Members are reminded to check their membership cards to determine if dues are in arrears, and to forward any amount due to the **461ST & 484TH BOMB GROUPS ASSOCIATION, 1122 YSABEL ST REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277**. The Association is planning to send statements to all members after the first of the year. For the information of all of our members, those whose dues are in arrears are dropped from the mailing roster and placed in the delinquent file. The cost of sending publications to individuals not supporting the Association is becoming prohibitive. If any members remark to you that they are not receiving mail from the Association, just pass on a gentle reminder to bring their dues current.

The 461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association is an all volunteer organization with no salaries paid. Dues monies are used to pay for the Torretta Flyers, equipment, postage, and supplies, etc. Remember annual dues, (\$15.00) are payable in January of each year.

Notice to 461st Bomb Group Members Only

There are now two organizations representing the members of the 461st Bomb Group. The first being the 461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association incorporated in California in 1981. The second one being the 461st Bomb Group (Heavy) 1943-1945 incorporated in Iowa in 1985.

This has caused confusion among some of our members. *These two independent organizations are completely separate from each other. Each has its own administration and dues structure operating and functioning separately from the other.* Membership in one, or the other, or both organizations is up to the individual.